

new music concerts presents
Christos Hatzis



Erotikos Logos
saturday october 28 / glenn gould studio

new music concerts presents: an evening with
C h r i s t o s H a t z i s

New Music Concerts inaugurates its twenty-fifth anniversary season with an evening devoted to a **trilogy of song-cycles** by the Greek-Canadian composer, **Christos Hatzis**. Dr. Hatzis began his musical studies at the local branch of the Hellenic Conservatory in his native Volos, receiving diplomas in performance, education and theoretical studies. Shortly thereafter he attended William Hall High School in West Hartford, Connecticut as an exchange student. His American studies continued at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y. and the State University of New York at Buffalo. His composition teachers included Joseph Schwantner, Samuel Adler, Lejaren Hiller and Morton Feldman.

A notably prolific and versatile composer, Hatzis has received well over forty commissions since immigrating to Canada in 1982. His expertise in both electronic and acoustic media has been celebrated in performances at prestigious international festivals, including the International Rostrum of Electroacoustic Music, the ISCM World Music Days, the Prix Futura (Berlin) and the Prix Italia. He has recently accepted an appointment as an Associate Professor of Composition at the Faculty of Music of the University of Toronto.

Arcana (1983), the first major work Hatzis composed in Canada, is set to the lyrics of the late Canadian poet Gwendolyn MacEwen (1941-1987) and was premièred by the Arraymusic ensemble with the poet as narrator. Though the work is based on selections from MacEwen's Egyptian-inspired work, *Nine Arcana of the Kings*, Hatzis has interpreted these texts (sung in English) from what he describes as a "fundamentally Christian" viewpoint. As a result the cycle incorporates fragments of Byzantine chant and allusions to familiar musical styles that are intended to bring us closer to the distant world of the Pharaoh Akhenaton.

Hatzis's **Three Songs on Poems by Sappho** (1990-1993) are settings of archaic Greek texts by the celebrated Lesbian poet of the sixth century B.C. The surviving fragments of her work, mainly addressed to young girls, are considered among the finest of classical love lyrics. The three songs of this cycle consist of an invocation to Aphrodite; a lively evocation of a wedding; and an introspective reflection on the nature of love and happiness. This **first performance** of the work will be sung in the original, classical Greek.

Erotikos Logos (1975-1991) is based on poetry by the Nobel prize-winning author and diplomat George Seferis (1900-1971), whose lyrical, symbolic verse sets tragic modern events against the background of Greece's past. The composer's setting of these verses, originally conceived for the voice of the Greek superstar Demetra Galani, evokes the popular musical language of the decade of the 1920's. **New Music Concerts' world première of *Erotikos Logos*** (performed in modern Greek) constitutes the long-delayed completion of a work Hatzis began at the age of twenty-two.

Vocal soloists for this special evening include soprano **Monica Whicher** (*Arcana*) and countertenors **Kyle Church Cheseborough** (*Three Songs*) and **Ron Greydanus** (*Erotikos Logos*). They will be joined by Toronto Symphony Orchestra virtuosos **Joaquin Valdepenas**, clarinet, **Steven Dann**, viola, and **David Hetherington**, 'cello, along with percussionist **Trevor Tureski**, and pianist **Marc Widner**, all under the leadership of New Music Concerts founder **Robert Aitken**.

The concert will be presented at the **Glenn Gould Studio** (Canadian Broadcasting Centre, 250 Front Street W.) at **8:00 pm** on **Saturday, October 28, 1995**. It will be preceded by a **public discussion** between **Christos Hatzis** and **Robert Aitken** in the theatre lobby at **7:15**. Tickets may be reserved by calling the Box Office at **(416) 205-5555**.

New Music Concerts 25th Anniversary Season 1995-1996

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Robert
Aitken
artistic
director

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*Saturday, October 28th, 1995, 8:00 pm, Glenn Gould Studio:
An Evening with Christos Hatzis*

The première performance of three recently completed song cycles by this prolific Greek/Canadian composer featuring soprano Monica Whicher and countertenors Kyle Church Cheseborough and Ron Greydanus.

*Sunday November 12th, 1995, 2:30 pm, Walter Hall:
Orpheus Then and Now*

A tribute to British composer Sir Michael Tippett in his 90th year. New Music Concerts in co-operation with the Aldeburgh Connection presents a programme including works for voice and piano and string quartet. Featured artists on this concert include soprano Valdine Anderson, tenor Benjamin Butterfield, baritone James Westman, pianists Bruce Ubukata and Stephen Ralls and The Accordes String Quartet.

*Sunday, December 3rd, 1995, 8:00 pm, Première Dance Theatre:
Henri Dutilleux*

This concert honouring the famed 80 year old French composer features The Accordes String Quartet playing his "Ainsi la nuit". This evening's performance also includes the première performance of Bruce Mather's "Vega Sicilia" and works by composers Harry Freedman, and Omar Daniel, featuring guitarist Rachel Gauk, soprano Valdine Anderson and cellist David Hetherington. Presented in co-operation with the Toronto Symphony.

*Friday, January 12, 1996, 8:00 pm, Recital Hall, Ford Centre:
Homage to Morton Feldman*

On the 70th anniversary of his birth New Music Concerts presents a film interview with this legendary composer and performs his rarely heard "Crippled Symmetry" with Robert Aitken, flute, Barbara Pritchard, piano and Robin Engelman, percussion.

*Sunday, February 4th, 1996, 8:00 pm, Première Dance Theatre:
GRAME*

An appearance by the exciting French contemporary music ensemble from Lyon on the occasion of their North American tour. This concert features new live and electro-acoustic works by French and Canadian composers.

*Wednesday, March 6th, 1996, 8:00 pm, The Gallery School, AGO:
A Tribute to the Group of Seven*

In co-operation with the Art Gallery of Ontario, the New Music Concerts Ensemble, conducted by Robert Aitken, presents a free concert honouring the current Group of Seven exhibition. Canadian composer Michel Longtin's "Pohjatuuli" was inspired by the paintings of some of Canada's most celebrated artists. Also being performed are Alban Berg's classic "Kammerkonzert" with Fujiko Imajishi, violin and Marc Widner, piano and the prize winning piece of New Music Concert's Young Composer's contest.

*Friday, May 24th, 1996, 8:00 pm, Première Dance Theatre:
AGON*

This ten member ensemble from Prague, specializing in alternative music, performs recent works by young Czech composers with two works by Vancouver based composer Rudolph Komorous.

For further information or seasons subscriptions:

☎ 416 961 9594

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